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ONLINE EDITION

Cheboygan Daily Tribune

308 North Main St. Cheboygan, MI 49721

Welcome to the Tribune!

Tuesday, November 22, 2005

Local News**Adoption events slated**

By ERICA KOLASKI

Tribune Staff Writer

CHEBOYGAN - As November marks adoption month across the nation, the Cheboygan Probate and Family Court will be celebrate Michigan's third Adoption Day today.

From 3:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. today, the court plans to host an adoption open house to celebrate the adoption of 11 children to eight families this past year, said Judge Robert John Butts.

This year's event will again include the finalization of a local adoption.

"We're very excited about this event," said Butts. "In most cases, people aren't happy to come to court, but adoptions are the one exception: a joyous occasion for the families and for the court, the Department of Human Services and the service providers involved with the families."

Butts said that adoption is the only answer for children who can never return home because of abuse or neglect. "There are many children available for adoption here in Michigan, waiting for safe and loving homes," he said. "There are also many children who have never really known their father or their mother, and a step-parent comes forward and becomes that needed parent."

Butts said that Michigan Adoption Day has taken place the Tuesday before Thanksgiving for the past two years, to coincide with the theme "giving thanks for families."

He said that last year in Michigan, 42 Michigan counties finalized 339 adoptions and held events like the one in Cheboygan to help

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educate potential adoptive parents.

For more information on Michigan adoptions, call 1-800-589-6723 or visit www.mare.org. Other local contact numbers include the Department of Human Services at 627-8500, Cheboygan County Family Court at 627-8823, Catholic Human Services at 947-8110 or Child and Family Services at 1-800-779-0396.

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